

**Welcome Remarks by Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Director,
SEAMEO Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC)**

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning,

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of SEAMEO RETRAC, to welcome all of you to this International Conference on “Leadership and Management in Higher Education for Sustainable Development”. I am really delighted with the attendance of more than 100 educational leaders, administrators, professors, educational experts, researchers and practitioners from both Vietnamese and international universities, colleges and other educational organizations. You are here to share your expertise, experiences, research findings and best practices on emerging issues of (1) the changing face of the 21st century leaders, (2) building culture of excellence and achievement, (3) expectations in learning and teaching, (4) building linkages between institutions and communities/enterprises. In view of the major challenges in the era of globalization in the 21st century and the lessons learned during the educational reforms taking place in many countries, these topics are indeed important ones.

The world today keeps changing and coming up with new things on daily basis. Therefore, the demand for a work force that can work, live, and adapt to the fast changing environment has become more urgent than ever. For this and many other reasons, it is without a doubt that education, particularly higher education, is believed to play a crucial role in preparing human resources for the sake of sustainable growth of a nation. Higher Education provides a strong foundation to uplift the prospects of our people to participate and take full advantage of the opportunities in Southeast Asia and beyond.

It is becoming increasingly important for global educational experts to get together to identify what should be done to enhance and strengthen the higher education quality, especially in the globalized context for sustainable development. It has become more imperative than ever for higher education to prepare students to meet the dynamic challenges of the globalized world. Along this line, the impact of the globalization in the development of a quality educational system has to be emphasized.

The 21st century has brought opportunities and new trends for educational leadership and management, teaching and learning practices as well as the research in higher education, yet at the same time it has posed a great number of challenges in order to serve the purpose of developing countries sustainably. I sincerely hope that this conference will provide an opportunity for the sharing of expertise, information and best practices in viewing how leadership and management in higher education can contribute to the need for sustainable development. I hope the conference will promote friendship and cooperation among the conference participants from different countries and institutions. I also trust that this conference will, in one way or another, provide us with ideas, recommendations, or solutions to challenges we face every day in our own working contexts and situations.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of SEAMEO RETRAC, I would like to thank all of the participants for joining this annual conference. My sincere appreciation goes to our key note and eminent speakers for your hard work in preparing your presentation and arranging your time to be with us at this important event.

My special thanks to the leaders of the Ministry of Education and Training in Vietnam for their continued support provided for SEAMEO RETRAC and our work here in Southeast Asia. Also, I wish to thank RMIT Vietnam for being the co-organizer of the conference and send my deepest appreciation to the diplomatic corps and international organizations for their constant support and attendance. Last but not least, I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to the planning and organization of this event.

I wish all of you a pleasant and productive conference!

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong
Director
SEAMEO RETRAC